

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1363
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UNCLAS LUBUMBASHI 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, CG
SUBJECT: FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR JOHN ODHNER

SUMMARY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAZA), LUBUMBASHI CAMPUS INFORMS US ODHNER NO LONGER DESIRED ON CAMPUS PER DECISION OF VICE RECTOR KOLI TAKEN PRIOR HIS KNOWLEDGE OF APPROVED FULBRIGHT STATUS FOR ODHNER AND PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SEMINAR HE NOW ATTENDING UNDER CU AND ROCKEFELLER AUSPICES. PROBLEM SEEMS TO ARISE FROM ODHNER'S PERSISTENT ACTIVISM IN SEEKING PAYMENT FOR HIMSELF, WIFE AND OTHER UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES OF LONG OVERDUE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPONENT OF THEIR SALARIES. ODHNER, NOW VISITING IN SPAIN, HAS BEEN QTE PUT AT THE DISPOSITION UNQTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND HIS APARTMENT REPOSSESSED BY UNAZA. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF MRS. ODHNER, A UNAZA LIBRARIAN, IS NOT RPT NOT AFFECTED. KOLI DECISION MIGHT NOT RPT NOT BE IRREVERSIBLE; SITUATION MIGHT BE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH UNAZA BEGUN LAST WEEK WE ASTONISHED TO HEAR THAT VICE RECTOR KOLI HAD DISMISSED AMCIT ODHNER, WHO UNDER CONTRACT THIS PAST YEAR AS PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS. KOLI HAD BEE APPRISED, AFTER ODHNER FAMILY DEPARTURE ON VACATION BUT PRIOR KOLI'S DEPARTURE FOR US, THAT ODHNER, HAVING GIVEN LONG ADVANCE WARNING, PACKAGED HIS FINAL GRADES AND RELATED PAPER FOR DELIVERY TO UNAZA ONLY AFTER FOREIGN EXCHANGE DUE HIM AND HIS WIFE HAD BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAID. ANGRY KOLI IMMEDIATELY ORDERED ODHNER PUT AT THE DIS-

POSITION OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN KINSHASA WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO PICK UP ANYONE NOT IN GOOD COLOR ON THIS CAMPUS.

2. STATUS OF MRS. ODHNER IS NOT RPT NOT AFFECTED. HOWEVER, SHE HAS INSUFFICIENT RANK TO WARRANT RETAINING FORMER APARTMENT WHICH HAS, THEREFORE, BEEN REPOSSESSED BY UNAZA. ALL ODHNER EFFECTS NOW IN CONSULATE POSSESSION.

3. IN ADDITION TO GRADE WITHOLDING INCIDENT, SENIOR UNAZA PEOPLE TELL US KOLI WAS SOUR ON ODHNER FOR OTHER REASONS, SOME DATING TO THEIR DAYS TOGETHER AT KISANGANI CAMPUS A YEAR OR TWO BACK. WE BELIEVE THESE STORIES MAY BE OVERDRAWN. MOREOVER, THERE ARE CONTRA-INDICATIONS AS TO KOLI'S CURRENT OUTLOOK, VIZ PARA FIVE OF EDMONSON TO JUNIOR LETTER OF JULY 5.

4. PASSAGE OF TIME AND COOL REFLECTION SHOULD TEND TO POINT UP GERMANE POINTS:

A) LOSS OF ODHNER WOULD PENALIZE MANY STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHOSE SENIOR-YEAR THESE HE IS SUPERVISING, SINCE LIKELY TO LATE TO FIND QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT THIS YEAR. FOR HIS PART, WE NOTE THAT ODHNER IN FACT RELEASED GRADES IN TIME FOR FINAL DELIBERATIONS DESPITE FACT, ACCORDING HIM, HE HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE UNAZA OWES HIM. NO HARM TO STUDENTS RESULTED FROM HIS TACTIC.

B) SHIFTING ODHNER TO FULBRIGHT WOULD RELEASE ALWAYS SHORT UNAZA MONEY FOR OTHER INSTRUCTORS. WE NOTE TOO THAT IT WAS KOLI WHO HIMSELF ASKED US TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE US FINANCING FOR ODHNER.

C) MRS. ODHNER COMPRISES HALF OF TRAINED EXPATRIATE LIBRARY STAFF FOR UNAZA. HER WORK HIGHLY VALUED. HE GOES, SHE GOES.

5. DESPITE PARA ONE ABOVE, UNAZA SAYS ODHNER MAY RETURN HERE TO CONTINUE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT THROUGH END OF UNIVERSITY SECOND SESSION ABOUT OCTOBER 15 WE DO NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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RPT NOT NECESSARILY ASSUME THAT THIS MEANS UNAZA WOULD PAY JOHN ODHNER'S FARE HOME. IF KOLI HOLDS TO HIS DECISION, UNAZA MIGHT ASSERT THAT ODHNER HAD BROKEN CONTRACT.

6. ISSUE CLEARLY STILL HINGES ON KOLI. A DEFINITIVE DECISION MIGHT BE MOST SIMPLY AND QUICKLY HAD THROUGH CU TELEPHONE CALL TO HIM IN WISCONSIN. CONSULATE, HOWEVER, TENDS TO VIEW THAT TIME WORKS FOR THE BETTER AND THAT

ODHNER FAMILY SHOULD RETURN HERE AS SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER, SHORTLY BEFORE KOLI. A MEETING BETWEEN THEM AT THAT POINT, BEGINNING THE ACADEMIC YEAR, SHOULD HIGHLIGHT ALL CONSIDERATIONS ARGUING FOR RETENTION OF ODHNER AND MINIMIZE PAST VEXATIONS.

7. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED WITH INFO COPY TO ODHNER VIA SEVILLE.

8. FOR SEVILLE: WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING ABOVE INFO OR GIST THEREOF TO ODHNER AT HOTEL ESTRELLA DE MAR, LA RABITA, GRANADA, TELEPHONE NUMBER 46.JUNIOR.

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